GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:243
ANSWERED ON:17.11.2016
Pending Wages under MGNREGS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether wages worth crores of rupees are pending for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether Hon. Supreme Court has asked the Government to release pending wages;

(d) if so, the amount released by the Government to clear such wages during 2015-16 and likely to be released during 2016-17, State/UT-wise; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to clear all pending wages under MGNREGS?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) & (b): As per the Programme Management Information System (MIS), State /UT-wise details of the pending wage liability under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for the year 2015-16 (As on 31st march, 2016) is given in Annexure-I.

(c): One of the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court to the Government in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 857 of 2015 was to release to the State Governments adequate funds under the Scheme in a timely manner so that the 'workforce' is paid its wages well in time.

(d): MGNREGA is a demand driven wage employment programme, hence no State/UT- wise allocation of fund is made. The central funds are released to the States/UTs on the basis of agreed to Labour Budget and taking into consideration the performance and the pace of utilization of available funds. An amount of Rs. 3623438.56 has been released to States/UTs during the Financial Year 2016-17 (as on 15.11.2016). State/UT-wise details of amount released under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) during the Financial Year 2015-16 is indicated in Annexure-II.

(e): In order to ensure timely payment wages, Rules have been issued for timely payment of wages under which, it was suggested that clear accountability shall be fixed on the functionaries for timely performance of specific duties leading to payment of wages. All cases of delayed payment attract compensation @ 0.05% of the unpaid wages per day of delay, which is automatically calculated and paid by the State Governments upfront.

For ensuring timely payment of wages, the Central Government has started National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) in 20 States and 1 UT. The system does away with unnecessary parking of funds at the State level and promote greater transparency in fund management.
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